2. The Central Vigilance Commission Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.1999 to confer statutory status on the CVC. The Bill stands referred to the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and its recommendations.

3. The Central Vigilance Commission has been vested powers vide Para 3(v) of Department of Personnel and Training Resolution No. 371/20/ 99-AVD. III dated 4th April, 1999 to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration. The Commission has issued several instructions to reduce the scope of corruption such as creating a culture of honesty, greater transparency in administration, electronics clearance system and computerisation of banks, sensitising the public etc. The Central Vigilance Commission has also issued Special Chapters on vigilance management in public sector banks and public sector undertakings.

4. It is proposed to set up the institution of Lok Pal to look into the allegations of corruption against high public functionaries. Lok Pal Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.1998 but lapsed on the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha on 26.4.1999. Steps are being taken to introduce the Bill afresh.

5. The Government set up a Working Group on 'Right to Information and Transparency' in January, 1997 which submitted its report to the Government on 21st May, 1997. The report of the Group has been processed and a Bill for Freedom of Information has been drafted. The Bill is presently under examination for introduction in the Parliament.

6. Recognising that an important aspect of Preventive Vigilance is to ensure transparency in public administration, measures of administrative reforms such as introduction of Citizens Charters and setting up of Facilitation Centre have been initiated. The review and simplification of laws, rules and procedures has also been taken up.

Bank Defaulters

†1605. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Central Vigilance Commission have received requests to publish the names of those people or organisation who have taken a large amount of loan from the banks and have not made repayment thereof within the stipulated period;

(b) if so, the date when Government received this request; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on this request; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Legal status of CBI

1606. SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the legal status of Central Bureau of Investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): The Central Bureau of Investigation was set up by Resolution No. 4/31/61-T dated 1.4.1963 of the Government of India. It derives its powers and jurisdiction from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

The role and functioning of the CBI have come under detailed scrutiny of the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Criminal) Nos. 340—343 / 1993, popularly known as the Vineet Narain Case.

Disabled Persons Appointed in the Central Government Services

1607. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the statutory percentage of reservation in Central Government Services for the disabled person and how many people have since been appointed in the offices under Central Government and its Undertakings;